



## BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Colonel David F. McAllister  
Chief of Police

**RE:** **Workshop - Regulation restricting the hours of sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at commercial establishments**

**DATE:** July 29, 2010

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#### **WORKSHOP ISSUE:**

Depending on the State Alcohol License that a commercial establishment has, they are permitted to sell and consume beer and wine during various hours. In some cases they can sell beer and wine almost 24 hours a day (with some restrictions) and liquor drinks until 2 AM. The liquor license does not address the hours that an establishment can be open and in many cases does not discuss the "consumption" of alcohol, just the "sale" of alcohol. This leads to some establishments selling multiple drinks to patrons at last call and allowing them to consume late into the night.

A quick check into the Bluffton Police records details why this raises some concern. Over the last two years the department has responded to bar locations 91 times for offenses ranging from disorderly conduct to serious assaults. This number excludes noise violations and does not count traffic related incidents (i.e., DUI's and crashes) that may be linked to a bar. Of those 91 calls, 55 % occur late at night (after 0100 hours). This number supports the theory that the later the hour, the more alcohol consumed equals a greater likelihood of a criminal incident.

The Department is asking Town Council to consider an ordinance that would regulate the times that these establishments must close, not just what time they must stop selling all types of alcohol. Below you will find language that would accomplish this request.

*Regulation restricting the hours of sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at commercial establishments.*

- a) It shall be unlawful to sell, give away, dispense, permit the consumption of, or consume any beer, ale, porter, wine, alcoholic beverages or alcoholic liquors between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Monday through Sunday at any private or nonprofit club, any store, beer parlor, or other place of business or commercial establishment which is authorized by law for the on-premises consumption of beer, ale, porter, wine, alcoholic beverages or alcoholic liquors.*
- b) It shall be unlawful for anyone to obstruct, hinder, or interfere with law enforcement from enforcing this section.*